



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,407	06/20/2006	Masanori Kato	1032404-000152	3576
21839 7590 10/28/2008 BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404				
EXAMINER THOMPSON, GREGORY D				
ART UNIT 2835		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 10/28/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/583,407

Applicant(s)

KATO ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory D. Thompson

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/20/06 and 11/02/07
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group 1 with claims 12-18 in the reply filed on 6/17/08 is acknowledged.

2. Figure 24 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. Below are just a few examples of minor claim informalities and 112 problems with some of the claims.

4. Claims 14, 16 and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities: The language of "at least one vertically extending protrusions" in lines 1-2 of the claims 14, 16 and 18 is not consistent language with "at least one protrusion" in claims 13, 15 and 17. Appropriate correction is required.

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 12, line 7 the language of "like" is confusing for it is not clear what is meant by "plate-like".

Claims 13, 15 and 17 it is not clear how the at least one protrusion substantially contacts a left and right side plate. How can a structure substantially contact another structure?

Claims 13-18 the language of "a/the corresponding side plate" is confusing for it is not clear if the protrusion contact both or only one of the left and right side plates.

Claim 18, lines 2-3 are confusing for it is not clear what structure the left and right side plates are associated with. In line 3, after the language of "plates" add -- of the main casing body -- to associate the plates with the casing.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '682 in view of Naito et al (2006/0154499).

JP '682 teaches an outdoor apparatus comprising: a box-shaped main casing body 6 that has an opening formed at a front face and a box-shaped front panel 7 that covers the front opening of the main casing body, wherein an upper plate of the main casing body 6 having an upward protrusion 12 that protrudes upward and has a plate-like rearward protrusion 15 that protrudes rearward (as seen in Fig. 7) from the upward protrusion 12, and the front panel 7 having a bent portion 13 that is bent substantially perpendicularly from an upper plate 9 that opposes the upward protrusion 12 of the main casing body and contacts a tip (the tip would be where the upper number 15 refers to in Fig. 7) of the rearward protrusion 15 of the main casing body 6. No

board is taught in JP '682. Naito teaches a board in a box (junction/connection). Therefore, it is considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the board in box 6 of JP '682 to support and provide electrical interconnection for the devices in box 6 to provide an electrical system. Regarding claim 13, each of a left side plate and a right side plate 4 of the main casing body 6 does have formed thereon at least one protrusion 12 that extends vertically and substantially contacts a corresponding side plate 13 among a left side plate and a right side plate of the front panel in Fig. 7. Regarding claims 14 and 16, the protrusion the at least one vertically extending protrusions 12 is formed on each of the left side plate and the right side plate at positions near and at an outer side of a tip portion of the corresponding side plate among the left side plate and the right side plate of the front panel. Regarding claim 15, each of a left side plate and a right side plate 4 of the front panel 7 having formed thereon at least one protrusion 12 that extends vertically and substantially contacts a corresponding side plate 13 among a left side plate and a right side plate of the main casing body. Regarding claim 17, JP '682 teaches an outdoor apparatus comprising: a box-shaped main casing body 6 that has an opening formed at a front face and a box-shaped front panel 7 that covers the front opening of the main casing body 6, and each of a left side plate and a right side plate 4 of the main casing body 6 having formed thereon at least one protrusion 12 that extends vertically and substantially contacts (insofar as understood) a corresponding side plate 14 among a left side plate and a right side plate of the front panel, and each of the left side plate and the right side plate of the front panel 7 having formed thereon at least one protrusion 13 that extends vertically and substantially contacts (where the lower number 15 refers to in Fig.7) a corresponding side plate among the left side plate and the right side plate of the main casing

body. Regarding claim 18, the at least one vertically extending protrusions 12 is formed on each of the left side plate and the right side plate at positions near and at an outer side of a tip portion of the corresponding side plate 14 among the left side plate and the right side plate of the front pane 7.

9. Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE '247 in view of Naito et al (2006/0154499).

Regarding claim 13, DE '247 teaches an outdoor apparatus comprising: a box-shaped main casing body (1,3-6) that has an opening formed at a front face and a box-shaped front panel 2 that covers the front opening of the main casing body, wherein each of a left side plate and a right side plate 4 of the main casing body having formed thereon at least one protrusion (20, Fig. 8) that extends vertically and substantially contacts a corresponding side plate among a left side plate and a right side plate of the front panel. Regarding claim 14, the at least one vertically extending protrusions 20 is formed on each of the left side plate and the right side plate at positions near and at an outer side of a tip portion of the corresponding side plate among the left side plate and the right side plate of the front panel. Regarding claim 15, the box-shaped main casing body (1,3-6) that has an opening formed at a front face and a box-shaped front panel 2 that covers the front opening of the main casing body, and each of a left side plate and a right side plate of the front panel having formed thereon at least one protrusion (20, Fig. 8) that extends vertically and substantially contacts a corresponding side plate among a left side plate and a right side plate of the main casing body. Regarding claim 16, the at least one vertically extending protrusions 20 is formed on each of the left side plate and the right side plate at positions near and at an outer side of a tip portion of the corresponding side plate among the left side plate and

the right side plate of the front panel. Regarding claim 17, the box-shaped main casing body (1,3-6) that has an opening formed at a front face and a box-shaped front panel 7 that covers the front opening of the main casing body, and each of a left side plate and a right side plate of the main casing body having formed thereon at least one protrusion 20 that extends vertically and substantially contacts a corresponding side plate among a left side plate and a right side plate of the front panel, and each of the left side plate and the right side plate of the front panel having formed thereon at least one protrusion 20 that extends vertically and substantially contacts a corresponding side plate among the left side plate and the right side plate of the main casing body. Regarding claim 18 the at least one vertically extending protrusions 20 is formed on each of the left side plate and the right side plate at positions near and at an outer side of a tip portion of the corresponding side plate among the left side plate and the right side plate of the front panel. No board taught by DE '247. Naito teaches a board in a box (junction/connection). Therefore, it is considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the board in box 6 of JP '682 to support and provide electrical interconnection for the devices in box 6 to provide an electrical system.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent in the fact that the not relied upon cited art teaches waterproof housings. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory D. Thompson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2045. The examiner can normally be reached on varying schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jayprakash Gandhi can be reached on (571) 272- 3740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory D Thompson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2835

Gregory D Thompson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2835